UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

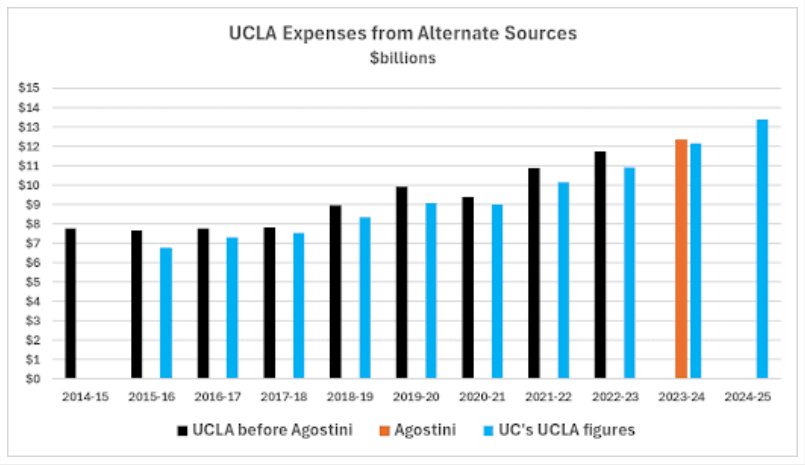
Sunday, March 8, 2026

The Budget: First, let's preserve. Then let's question - Part 2

As blog readers will know, UCLA's former CFO Steve Agostini was under pressure from the Academic Senate to produce usable data on the campus budget so that proposed budget cuts could be examined. He eventually produced a budget document, but shortly afterwards made comments about the budget as it had been previously managed and documented that led to his rapid termination.

The problem here is that removing the CFO does not remove underlying issues of budget management or accounting. As blog readers will also know, yours truly quickly downloaded available UCLA financial accounts that Agostini had criticized and preserved them so that they wouldn't vanish as quickly as he did.*

There are overlapping reports on UCLA expenses available from 1) UCLA for the period 2002-03 to 2022-23 (unaudited reports), 2) UC as part of its systemwide (audited) financial reports from 2015-16 to 2024-25,** and 3) the Agostini report for 2023-24 (only).***



The chart above shows UCLA expenditures as reported from the three sources. The key takeaway is that the numbers do not agree. There could be all kinds of reasons for the discrepancies including alternative definitions of revenues and accounting methodology. Still, why there are differences is something for the Academic Senate and its relevant committees to be analyzing. If you don't have numbers that you understand, you can't address underlying budget issues.

When a new permanent CFO is selected, that person should be committed to presenting reports that make clear what UCLA's financial situation actually is.

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The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- FAQs for Senate Faculty about Possible Strike by UAW; Winter 2026
- Fight for the Future of Higher Education: Academic Freedom from the Classroom to the Clinic
- Our Concerns Over Revisions to APMs 15 and 16
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- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix

Remaking the University

- An Invitation: Know Your Governing Board (Guest Project) - 3/4/2026
- Liner Note 48. The Faculty's Budget Fight at UCLA - 2/23/2026
- Liner Note 47. Did The Atlantic's Anti-Woke Bias Spoil its Analysis of Humanities Funding Death? - 2/16/2026

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

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- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

*You can find the downloaded documents, related items, and other budget documents at:

https://archive.org/details/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026.

**The UC documents do not break out revenues.

***The Agostini budget document had unit-level budget data for 2024-25, but did not provide a total for expenses.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 275

From Inside Higher Ed: *Two weeks after introducing a policy that allowed administrators to secretly record faculty members during class, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill chancellor Lee Roberts told faculty he would nix the rule. "The whole idea was to create clarity and reassurance," Roberts said during a Faculty Senate meeting Friday. "That policy clearly has not achieved that aim."*

Faculty members applauded at the news. During a Q&A, Roberts confirmed that no faculty members will be surreptitiously recorded until—and if—a new policy is put in place. Administrators will continue to evaluate whether the university needs such a policy, he said. In 2024, university officials opted not to renew economics instructor Larry Chavis's contract after secretly recording several of his classes. Since then, "I have not heard of a single [other] instance—not [even] just a case where we debated surreptitious recording. It just hasn't come up. So why go through this exercise that's creating so much disquiet when this seems to be an extraordinarily rare type of occurrence?" Roberts said at Friday's meeting...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/03/02/unc-chancellor-scraps-secret-recording-policy.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, U of North Carolina

Did You Spring Forward?

This is the time of year when folks in California complain that they thought they had voted on, and passed, a ballot proposition that would stop the clock-changing.

And there are debates about whether to stop the clock changing and, if so, whether to leave the clocks on daylight or standard time.

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Straws in the Wind - Part 272

UCLA is delighted to lend a hand...

It's also the time of year when we provide everything (and more) about time and clock changing from a lecture presentation given in winter 2022 (when instructors still were wearing masks due to COVID).

Link at https://archive.org/details/mitchell-time-edited.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous, politics

Saturday, March 7, 2026

By the book at Davis

From Inside Higher Ed: *Bill Garrity [university librarian and vice provost of digital scholarship] still remembers the moment last fall when the University of California, Davis, library transformed into a performance hall. A quartet played beneath its high ceilings, the strains of a medieval-style guitar echoing among the stacks... Increasingly, UC Davis students are turning to Shields Library not just to study but to attend musical performances, meet with mental health ambassadors, cuddle with therapy dogs and engage in other activities. Campus leaders say it has become a "third place"—a term coined by sociologist Ray Oldenburg to describe a space beyond home and work where people gather, connect and belong.*

Amid broader discussions about the disappearance of third places—particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic—the role of community as a public health necessity has gained renewed attention. College libraries nationwide have increasingly stepped into that void... At UC Davis, "the library is intellectually, organizationally and physically at the heart of campus," Garrity said. "It's a place where people spend a lot of time and absolutely serves the whole campus—all students, all faculty, all researchers, all disciplines." ...In addition to hosting programs, the library also deploys mental health ambassadors to engage students in conversation, promote stress-relieving activities and connect them with resources, Garrity said... The library also partnered with the campus tutoring center to repurpose the lower-level reading room into a centralized tutoring hub...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/student-success/college-experience/2026/03/03/uc-davis-library-emerges-campus-third-place.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UC-Davis

Straws in the Wind - Part 274

From the Cornell Daily Sun: *Wendy Wolford, vice provost for international affairs, sent an email... informing the Cornell community about the University's immigration support and*

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

resources, following U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's arrest of a Columbia student from her dorm... The email provides four types of resources available to the community: preparation, immediate assistance, immigration support and emotional and academic support.

In regards to preparation, Wolford provided a "Know Your Rights, Claim Your Rights" presentation and the University's immigration violations policy. "On or off campus, it is Cornell's policy that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are only allowed to enter a closed university space or private residence if they have a valid judicial warrant or if someone voluntarily allows them to enter," Wolford wrote.

In the case where immediate assistance is necessary, Wolford encouraged community members on the Ithaca campus to call the Cornell University Police Department at 607-255-1111. If immediate assistance is necessary at Cornell Tech, individuals are encouraged to call Cornell Tech Safety & Security at 646-971-3611. At Weill Cornell Medicine, individuals can call WCM Security at 212-746-0911.

The email statement was released a day after ICE agents arrested Columbia University graduate student Elmina Aghayeva, according to The Columbia Spectator. The agents gained access to Aghayeva's residential building after telling the building superintendent they were searching for a missing child, according to the New York Times. They did not provide a warrant when asked by a public security officer...

Full story at https://www.cornellsun.com/article/2026/03/university-emails-immigration-support-resources-following-ice-arrest-at-columbia.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Cornell, diversity, politics

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 129

From the Harvard Crimson: *The Faculty of Arts and Sciences is planning to reduce spending on non-tenure-track faculty by 25 percent across all three of its academic divisions, according to people familiar with the decision, marking the latest cost-cutting measures as the school faces a $365 million budget deficit. The 25 percent cut will be applied uniformly to the Division of Science, the Division of Arts and Humanities, and the Division of Social Science. Three people familiar with the plans in the Science division, two in the Arts and Humanities, and one in Social Science confirmed that each division will face the same across-the-board reduction.*

The cuts follow months of internal discussions and come on the heels of a sharp reduction in Ph.D. admissions last fall — another major effort to curb academic spending... The number of non-tenure-track faculty has increased by about 60 percent over the past two decades, though undergraduate enrollment has remained roughly the same...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/3/3/non-tenure-track-budget-cuts/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard

Friday, March 6, 2026

'Age-friendly' campus

From the UCLA Newsroom: *In 2018, UCLA became the first UC campus to join the Age-Friendly University Global Network, a consortium of higher education institutions dedicated to enhancing the lives of older adults through education, research and community engagement. Since then, university has built a foundation of programs and partnerships based on the network's 10 guiding principles that help older adults remain active, socially connected and engaged in the university community.*

A group of retirees join UCLA internet pioneer Leonard Kleinrock (front row, yellow shirt) for a tour of 3420 Boelter Hall, the site where Kleinrock and his colleagues sent the first message over the fledgling internet in 1969*

Now, UCLA is taking its commitment a step further by launching a new age-friendly website and establishing a cross-disciplinary task force that will bring together emeriti faculty, staff, retirees and students to promote healthy aging and combat ageism.

"UCLA is uniquely located at the center of one of the most diverse and influential global megacities, where we have the opportunity for active participation in the age-friendly movement," said Ayesha Dixon, senior director of the UCLA Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center. "That includes cross-campus collaborations on equity and inclusion of older adults in the university community, supporting education and wellness initiatives, advancing research on aging and ageism, and fostering intergenerational learning." ...

Full story at https://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/ucla-expands-commitment-as-age-friendly-campus.

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*Story related to photo at:

Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9L4IjpSPUo.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, health care, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 273

From Inside Higher Ed: *The University of North Carolina Board of Governors voted... to approve a lengthy definition of what academic freedom does and doesn't protect throughout the state university system. It says academic freedom includes the right to teach and research "controversial or unpopular ideas related to the discipline or subject matter," but also says "academic freedom is not absolute." ...The board approved the definition in a voice vote, with no dissent heard.*

The new UNC policy promises many of the same protections found in other descriptions of academic freedom, in addition to the caveat about how "academic freedom is not absolute." It lists three elements that academic freedom doesn't include:

- *"Teaching content that lacks pedagogical connection to the course, discipline, or subject matter."*
- *"Using university resources for political activity in violation of university policy."*
- *"Refusing to comply with institutional policies."*

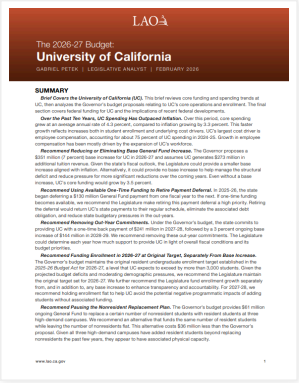
The policy stresses that administrators also share in implementing the university's mission, including, at times, regulating faculty. It says administrators have the responsibility to ensure "faculty activities align with the university's mission as established under UNC policy and meet accreditation standards" and to "intervene when faculty conduct violates professional norms, creates a hostile learning environment as defined by policy and law, or undermines the institution's educational objectives." ...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty-issues/academic-freedom/2026/02/26/unc-board-oks-definition-what-academic-freedom-and.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: U of North Carolina

LAO on UC


LAO

The 2026-27 Budget:
University of California

GABRIEL PETEK | LEGISLATIVE ANALYST | FEBRUARY 2026

SUMMARY

Brief Covers the University of California (UC). This brief reviews core funding and spending trends at UC, then analyzes the Governor's budget proposals relating to UC's core operations and enrollment. The final section covers federal funding for UC and the implications of recent federal developments.

Over the Past Ten Years, UC Spending Has Outpaced Inflation. Over this period, core spending grew at an average annual rate of 4.3 percent, compared to inflation growing by 3.3 percent. This faster growth reflects increases both in student enrollment and underlying cost drivers. UC's largest cost driver is employee compensation, accounting for about 70 percent of UC spending in 2024-25. Growth in employee compensation has been mostly driven by the expansion of UC's workforce.

Recommend Reducing or Eliminating Base General Fund Increase. The Governor proposes a $303 million 2 percent base increase for UC in 2026-27 and assumes UC generates $273 million in additional tuition revenue. Given the state's fiscal outlook, the Legislature could provide a smaller base increase or no increase at all. Providing UC with no base increase to help manage the structural deficit and reduce pressure for more significant reductions over the coming years. Even without a base increase, UC's core funding would grow by 3.5 percent.

Recommend Using Available One-Time Funding to Retire Payment Deferral. In 2025-26, the state began deferring a $130 million General Fund payment from one fiscal year to the next. If one-time funding becomes available, we recommend the Legislature make retiring this payment deferral a high priority. Retiring the deferral would return UC's state payments to their regular schedule, eliminate the associated debt obligation, and reduce state budgetary pressures in the out-years.

Recommend Removing Out-Year Commitments. Under the Governor's budget, the state commits to providing UC with a one-time back payment of $241 million in 2027-28, followed by a 3 percent ongoing base increase of $164 million in 2028-29. We recommend removing these out-year commitments. The Legislature could determine each year how much support to provide UC in light of overall fiscal conditions and its budget priorities.

Recommend Funding Enrollment in 2026-27 at Original Target, Separately From Base Increase. The Governor's budget maintains the original resident undergraduate enrollment target established in the 2022-23 budget act for 2026-27. Given UC's recent enrollment declines, the state's fiscal challenges, the projected budget deficits and moderating demographic pressures, we recommend the Legislature maintain the original target set for 2026-27. We further recommend the Legislature fund enrollment growth separately from, and in addition to, any base increases to enhance transparency and accountability. For 2027-28, we recommend holding enrollment flat to help UC avoid the potential negative programmatic impacts of adding students without associated funding.

Recommend Pausing the Nonresident Replacement Plan. The Governor's budget provides $61 million ongoing General Fund to replace a certain number of nonresident students with resident students at three high-demand campuses. We recommend an alternative that funds the same number of resident students while leaving the number of nonresidents flat. This alternative costs $36 million less than the Governor's proposal. Given all three high-demand campuses have added resident students beyond replacing nonresidents the past few years, they appear to have associated physical capacity.

www.lao.ca.gov 1

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) goes to work after the governor presents his January budget analyzing the key features of the proposal and suggesting alternatives. Basically, in broad terms, the LAO seems upset that UC spending in real terms is rising - which would seem to be the expected result of the legislature's insistence on increasing enrollment. The LAO has never been keen on multiyear "compacts" (even though these are often pushed aside in periods of budget stringency). To save money, it suggests less substitution of residents for out-of-state students (who pay higher tuition). But squeezing out-of-state enrollment to make more spaces for Californians seems to be a major legislative commitment. In any case, LAO seems to want to achieve lower state spending on UC by one means or another.

LAO acknowledges problems UC faces with regard to its conflict with the federal government, but seems to believe that maybe - in the end - the budgetary implication will turn out to be less dire than initially expected.

Excerpt from the LAO report on UC:

Over the Past Ten Years, UC Spending Has Outpaced Inflation. Over this period, core spending grew at an average annual rate of 4.3 percent, compared to inflation growing by 3.3 percent. This faster growth reflects increases both in student enrollment and underlying cost drivers. UC's largest cost driver is employee compensation, accounting for about 75 percent of UC spending in 2024-25. Growth in employee compensation has been mostly driven by the expansion of UC's workforce.

Recommend Reducing or Eliminating Base General Fund Increase. The Governor proposes a $351 million (7 percent) base increase for UC in 2026-27 and assumes UC generates $273 million in additional tuition revenue. Given the state's fiscal outlook, the Legislature could provide a smaller base increase aligned with inflation. Alternatively, it could provide no base increase to help manage the structural deficit and reduce pressure for more significant reductions over the coming years. Even without a base increase, UC's core funding would grow by 3.5 percent.

Recommend Using Available One-Time Funding to Retire Payment Deferral. In 2025-26, the state began deferring a $130 million General Fund payment from one fiscal year to the next. If one-time funding becomes available, we recommend the Legislature make retiring this payment deferral a high priority. Retiring the deferral would return UC's state payments to their regular schedule, eliminate the associated debt obligation, and reduce state budgetary pressures in the out-years.

Recommend Removing Out-Year Commitments. Under the Governor's budget, the state commits to providing UC with a one-time back payment of $241 million in 2027-28, followed by a 3 percent ongoing base increase of $144 million in 2028-29. We recommend removing these out-year commitments. The Legislature could determine each year how much support to provide UC in light of overall fiscal conditions and its budget priorities.

Recommend Funding Enrollment in 2026-27 at Original Target, Separately From Base Increase. The Governor's budget maintains the original resident undergraduate enrollment target established in the 2025-26 Budget Act for 2026-27, a level that UC expects to exceed by more than 3,000 students. Given the projected budget deficits and moderating demographic pressures, we recommend the Legislature maintain the original target set for 2026-27. We further recommend the Legislature fund enrollment growth separately from, and in addition to, any base increase to enhance transparency and accountability. For 2027-28, we recommend holding enrollment flat to help UC avoid the potential negative programmatic impacts of adding students without associated funding.

Recommend Pausing the Nonresident Replacement Plan. The Governor's budget provides $61 million ongoing General Fund to replace a certain number of nonresident students with resident students at three high-demand campuses. We recommend an alternative that funds the same number of resident students while leaving the number of nonresidents flat. This alternative costs $36 million less than the Governor's proposal. Given all three high-demand campuses have added resident students beyond replacing nonresidents the past few years, they appear to have associated physical capacity.

Full LAO report: https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/5143.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: LAO, State Budget, UC budget crisis

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 128

From the NY Times: *After Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced last month that the Pentagon would cut ties with Harvard University over ideological differences, Harvard is trying to create a workaround for students in the military. The Harvard Kennedy School, one of the schools at Harvard attended by service members, is offering to let them defer admission or help them pursue spots at four other institutions if they are accepted to the Kennedy School for the 2026-27 academic year.*

Secretary Hegseth announced the Pentagon's break with Harvard in a video released Feb. 6, in which he called Harvard "one of the red-hot centers of hate-America activism" and accused "too many" military members who graduate from Harvard of developing radical ideologies. Mr. Hegseth, who graduated from the Harvard Kennedy School in 2013 with a master's degree in public policy, said that he would "discontinue all graduate-level professional military education, fellowships and certificate programs" between Harvard and his department, beginning with the next academic year...

If they are not allowed to attend, military members accepted this spring to the Kennedy School will be able to defer their admission for up to four years, according to a copy of a letter to applicants...

Officials at four other graduate schools have agreed to give quick consideration to applications from active-duty military members who are accepted to the Kennedy School but who don't want to put off their education... Those programs are the Harris School at the University of Chicago, the Fletcher School at Tufts University, the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Gerald R. Ford School at the University of Michigan...

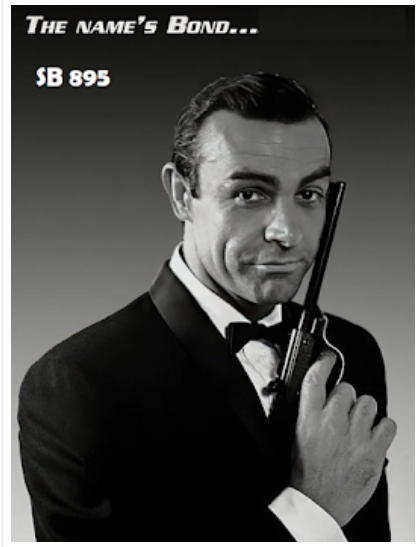
Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/04/us/hegseth-pentagon-harvard-military.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, Harvard, politics, Tufts, U of Chicago, U of Michigan, U of Texas

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Bond



UC News Release:

UC sponsors SB 895 to place a $23 billion bond to fund scientific research in California on the November ballot

UC Office of the President, March 5, 2026

The $23 billion bond would protect jobs, sustain lifesaving research, improve health and bolster the state's innovation economy

==

OAKLAND – As the University of California faces one of the most significant disruptions to its research enterprise in its 157-year history, UC President James B. Milliken announced today that the University is sponsoring state Senator Scott Wiener's SB 895, bipartisan legislation that would place a $23 billion bond to fund scientific research across California on the November 2026 ballot. If passed by voters, the measure would be a critical step in preserving research that is central to protecting jobs, sustaining lifesaving medical advancements, supporting the health of communities across the state and maintaining California's global leadership in innovation.

"University research has been under sustained attack over the past year," said UC President James B. Milliken. "This bill aims to protect the remarkable advances benefiting millions of Californians now and in the future. We are proud to cosponsor this bill and will always stand up for science."

SB 895 establishes the California Foundation for Science and Health Research to fund competitive research grants, low-interest loans and modernized research facilities focused on urgent statewide priorities.

"As the federal government upends science funding, California must stand up to defend science and to double down on our state's global science leadership," said Sen. Scott Wiener. "Science makes California great in so many ways, from helping cure diseases, to helping prevent

climate-driven wildfires, to driving our economy. The UC has been at the center of that scientific leadership for decades, and I'm proud to have its partnership in the fight to take back control of California's destiny on science funding."

UC research drives California's innovation and economy

Scientific research is a cornerstone of California's economy, serving as the foundation for some of the state's leading industries. California's biotechnology industry generated $395.7 billion in total economic output, contributed $125.7 billion in salaries, and supported 1.15 million jobs in 2024.

As the nation's top public research institution, UC plays a central role in California's innovation ecosystem. It leads to life-changing solutions that benefit everyone — from the smartphone in your pocket to the food on your plate to the medicine in your cabinet. For every $1 the State of California invests in UC, $21.04 is generated in total economic activity and $14.32 is added in real economic value.

Last year, UC set a new world record for the most Nobel Prizes awarded to one university system in a single year and received the most U.S. utility patents in the world amid global competition, helping keep the nation at the forefront of scientific discovery.

"This measure could help you or someone you love by continuing research in groundbreaking therapies for cancer, heart disease, diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and more," said UAW Region 6 Director Mike Miller. "As the federal government slashes research funding across the country, we are proud to come together with Senator Wiener, Assemblymember Solache and the University of California to ensure that California meets the moment."

Federal funding for research

Funding from the federal government supports tens of thousands of jobs across California and drives breakthroughs in health care, agriculture, climate science, artificial intelligence, national security and more. Unprecedented disruptions at the federal level now threaten that critical work and create significant setbacks for progress and innovation — while putting jobs and educational opportunities at risk.

Pharmaceutical discounts and state support

In addition to support for science, SB 895 includes requirements to make health care more accessible by ensuring California residents receive discounts for pharmaceuticals developed through this research. It also ensures profitable discoveries are reinvested back in California by allowing the state to recoup some licensing and royalty fees from inventions and technologies produced from bond-funded research dollars.

Support for SB 895 is bipartisan and broad-based, from researchers and physicians to legislators throughout the state. The bill is sponsored by United Auto Workers Region 6 and Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD), and is joint authored by Senators Sasha Renée Pérez and Aisha Wahab and principal co-authored by Assemblymembers José Luis Solache, Jr., Mike Gipson, Jacqui Irwin, Al Muratsuchi, and Darshana Patel, Ph.D. Thirty-one members of the Legislature are co-authoring the bill to date.

Source: https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/uc-sponsors-sb-895-place-23-billion-bond-fund-scientific-research-california-november.

Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5X_SYZqPe6A or https://ia601506.us.archive.org/0/items/newsom-03-04-2026/UC%20Support%20for%20Research%20Bond%20SB%20895%203-5-2026.mp4.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:52 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, legislature, politics, UC

Big Health Donation

From the UCLA Newsroom:

UCLA Health today announced the single largest gift to advance mental health care in its history – $100 million from global philanthropists Stewart and Lynda Resnick, co-owners of Los Angeles–based The Wonderful Company, one of the nation's largest privately held companies.

The Resnicks' gift, made possible through their foundation, will help fund the expansion of mental and behavioral health services at UCLA Health and support completion of a new neuropsychiatric hospital and a comprehensive mental health campus. UCLA Health is one of the world's leading centers for comprehensive patient care, research and education, and the initiative is designed to dramatically increase access to care, strengthen community-based services, and advance research and innovation to address the growing mental health crisis in our community...

Full story at https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/resnick-100-million-gift-to-ucla-mental-health.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: fund raising, health care, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 272

From Inside Higher Ed: *Three-plus years after the debut of ChatGPT sparked new academic integrity fears, artificial intelligence–enabled tools can do far more than write a student's research paper. These days, autonomous AI agents can complete entire online courses—and it's raising questions about the future of teaching and learning. Earlier this week, Advait Paliwal—a 22-year-old tech entrepreneur who dropped out of the computer science master's program at Brown University in 2024—launched Einstein, an agentic AI tool specifically designed to connect with the popular learning management system Canvas.*

"Einstein is an AI with a computer," the product website explained when it first went live a few days ago. "He logs into Canvas every day, watches lectures, reads essays, writes papers, participates in discussions, and submits your homework—automatically." Einstein can help with any subject, including math, physics, computer science, history, literature and economics, and even keeps working when students are asleep...

While such promise may be alluring to some overwhelmed or unmotivated students, Einstein's release this week is intensifying discussion among faculty about policy, pedagogy and the purpose of higher education in the age of agentic AI...

NOTE: After this story was published, Paliwal said he received a cease-and-desist letter from Instructure, which owns Canvas, and has since taken down Einstein's website.

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/tech-innovation/artificial-intelligence/2026/02/26/agentic-ai-can-complete-whole-courses-now.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

UCLA is delighted to lend a hand...

...Because, after all, it's just money.

From the San Francisco Chronicle:

Cal's spending on intercollegiate athletics soared in the school's first year in the Atlantic Coast Conference, university records show. Total operating expenses climbed to more than $165 million in the 2024-25 fiscal year, up from approximately $149 million in 2023-24 and $127 million the year before. That's an increase of more than 30% in the three-year period ending last June 30. Revenues also jumped, rising to about $153 million in '24-'25 according to Cal's annual financial report released Monday. That marked a boost of more than $33 million, though much of the increase came ***via payments from UCLA ($10 million)*** *and the system-wide University of California Office of the President ($15 million).*

Bottom line: The statement of revenues and expenses puts the Cal athletic department's deficit at more than $24 million for the most recent fiscal year, including nearly $12 million in payments for the renovation of Memorial Stadium and other capital projects.

That deficit also could be viewed as an understatement, given that Cal counted as revenue almost $43 million in "direct institutional support" from the university...

Full story at:

https://www.sfchronicle.com/sports/college/article/cal-s-sports-spending-soars-165-million-first-21361485.php.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UC-Berkeley, UCLA, UCOP

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

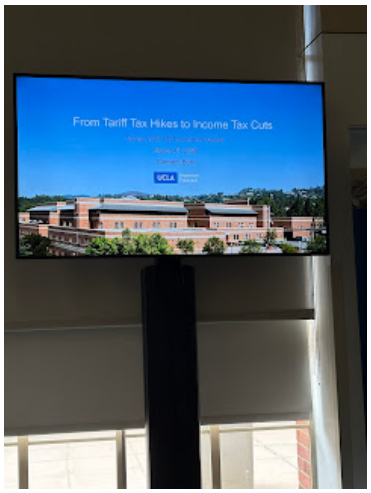
UCLA Forecast

The UCLA Anderson Forecast presented its March forecast today. The forecast was made before the Iran War began and did not include alternative war scenarios. Forecasters generally said much would depend on the length and course of the war which is uncertain at this point.

Excerpt from news release:

The California Economy

California's economy presents a contrasting pattern: strong output growth paired with weak payroll employment. As the March 2026 California report notes, "Normally, one would expect employment to grow in step with output and income; however, the opposite has occurred." Using a monthly GDP methodology developed by the Forecast, economists estimate



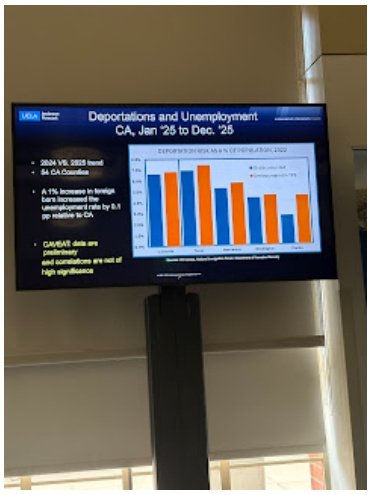
California's fourth-quarter growth at 3.8% annualized, well above the initial 1.4% U.S. GDP estimate. The state has now grown faster than the nation for four consecutive quarters.

Yet payroll employment declined in 2025, marking the first sustained contraction since the pandemic. The unemployment rate has remained above 5% for nearly two years. As of December 2025, it stood at 5.5%.

The report characterizes the state's structure as a "new bifurcated economy," driven by AI, aerospace and other high-productivity sectors on one side, and slower-growing sectors such as construction, retail and segments of leisure and hospitality on the other. Venture capital concentration remains significant, with nearly 70% of U.S. venture funding flowing to California in early 2025.

Encouraging signs are emerging in aerospace and computer systems design, where hiring has begun to recover. If sustained, these sectors could provide a basis for stronger employment growth in 2027 and 2028. Goods movement also shows improvement, with port activity and air cargo volumes rebounding to or above pre-pandemic levels.

Housing remains constrained by workforce shortages, tariff-related input costs and financing conditions. Lower mortgage rates may spur some additional activity, but permit levels remain subdued and multifamily development is not expected to accelerate materially in the near term.



California Forecast Numbers

Unemployment Rates (Annual Averages)

2026: 5.6%

2027: 4.8%

2028: 4.4%

Total Employment Growth

2026: 0.9%

2027: 1.8%

2028: 2.1%

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Source: https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/news-and-events/us-economy-poised-reaccelerate-2026-fiscal-stimulus-and-ai-investment-intensify.

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Rick Caruso, the developer who ran unsuccessfully for mayor, was a guest speaker. He repeated his previously announced decision not to run for governor or mayor in upcoming elections, citing family safety concerns. Generally, he noted a need in California and the local

area for stability and efficiency in policy decisions related to construction of housing and other projects such as desalination plants.

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The final session of the Forecast meeting was devoted to the likely economic impact of the World Cup and Olympic events on the local economy. Although there were offsetting effects described, the net effect was seen as positive as more dollars would be flowing into the area through sports tourism.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:45 PM No comments:

Labels: athletics, politics, UCLA

UCLA PD scam calls

From an email circulated today:

A Message Regarding Scam Calls Impersonating UCLA Police

Dear UCLA Community,

The UCLA Police Department is aware of a phone scam targeting members of the UCLA and UCLA Health community.

In these calls, the caller falsely claims to be UCLA Police Chief Craig Valenzuela, or another member of the police department, and demands money from the victim to prevent officers from responding to make an arrest. Some calls may appear to come from UCPD's phone number (310-825-1491) due to caller ID spoofing.

These calls are a scam.

The UCLA Police Department will never call and demand money to resolve a warrant, avoid an arrest, or clear criminal charges.

If you receive a suspicious call:

- Do not provide money or personal information.
- Hang up immediately.
- Report the call to UCPD Dispatch at (310) 825-1491.

Please share this information to help protect others in the UCLA community.

If you have questions or concerns, contact the UCLA Police Department at (310) 825-1491 or visit ucpd.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,

Office of Campus and Community Safety

Posted by California Policy Issues at 4:59 PM No comments:

Labels: email fraud, UCLA

Bargaining News

From the Bruin:

...The unit of the University Council-American Federation of Teachers representing lecturers reached its current contract with the University in November 2021. That contract – which included pay raises and expansions of paid leave and health care – is set to expire June 30. A UC Office of the President spokesperson said in an emailed statement that bargaining between the union and the UC will tentatively begin March 5...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/02/24/uc-and-uc-aft-negotiations-tentatively-set-to-begin-in-march.

In addition, UCOP has announced that bargaining with the union representing UC police is in an early stage. See:

https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/university-california-opens-contract-negotiations-federated-university-police-officers.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 271

From the Yale Daily News: *In a joint Instagram post on Wednesday afternoon, The Yale Review and its executive editor Meghan O'Rourke '97 announced that the literary journal will not be hosting its annual spring festival this year. The Yale Review Festival usually features four days of panels, readings and workshops with writers and editors, but O'Rourke cited budget tightening caused by the upcoming endowment tax hike as the reason for the "difficult decision." In the fall, administrators announced that schools and divisions across Yale would have to reduce their budget targets as the University prepares for a tax increase that will cost it about $300 million per year.*

"The festival is one of the most meaningful parts of what we do — a chance to bring extraordinary writers to Yale and gather a community around literature and ideas," O'Rourke wrote. "But in this moment of financial uncertainty, we need to be thoughtful about how we use our resources." ...

Full story at https://yaledailynews.com/articles/yale-review-cancels-annual-literary-festival-citing-endowment-tax.

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From Inside Higher Ed: *Education under secretary Nicholas Kent opened day two of the American Council on Education's annual meeting with a clear and pointed statement—American higher education needs a "hard reset." And much of that reset, he said, is already underway. Once a collaborative partnership funded by taxpayers to promote innovation and merit-based social mobility, higher ed has been tainted by ideologically driven universities that*

accept billions while "resisting any meaningful accountability for results," the under secretary said. Now, "those days are over."

"If you want a partnership with the federal government, it must be a real partnership, grounded in transparency, measurable outcomes and a commitment to students and taxpayers alike," Kent explained, adding that change is coming whether institutions like it or not. "I hope that you all are ready, having made it through the five stages of grief and, most importantly, reaching the final state of acceptance." ...

But many college leaders in the room appeared to take issue with Kent's comments. Throughout the under secretary's speech, many shared murmurs of disagreement and at times laughed, scoffing at his remarks. A few left the room. After Kent's speech, Jon Fansmith, the council's senior vice president of government relations, took to the stage and offered a sort of rebuttal. "I will point out the irony with [Kent's] concluding remarks that they want to work with us," he said. "Working generally involves a partnership, not acquiescence." ...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/2026/02/27/under-secretary-kent-says-higher-ed-needs-hard-reset.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, Yale

I Never Promised You a Rose Bowl? - Part 16

We have noted that UCLA recently announced that its upcoming football season will be in the Rose Bowl, although there is ongoing litigation occurring regarding its lease agreement. While there may have been a variety of reasons for the announcement, it appears that one of them stems from that litigation.

From Pasadena Now:

A lawsuit filed by the Rose Bowl Operating Co. alleging UCLA is wrongfully exploring options for a new home football venue, specifically SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, should be stayed pending an appeal of a judge's ruling that the case should not be arbitrated, the UC Regents' attorneys state in new court papers. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Joseph Lipner heard arguments on the UC Regents and SoFi Stadium motions to compel arbitration, then took the issues under submission before ruling on Feb. 5 that the case should be heard by a jury...

But the UC Regents, on behalf of UCLA, state in court papers filed with Lipner [last] Thursday that a hold on proceedings is again warranted, this time because of their appeal of the arbitration denial...

"There is no urgency in resolving this matter because UCLA confirmed that it intends to play its home football games at the Rose Bowl Stadium for the 2026 college football season," the UC Regents... contend in their court papers...

Full story at https://pasadenanow.com/main/uc-regents-ask-court-to-pause-rose-bowl-suit-while-ruling-preventing-arbitration-is-appealed.

Translated: There is no need to go to trial any time soon because, after all, we are going to be playing at the Rose Bowl next year.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Tightening

Blog readers will know that Harvard and other universities have become concerned about grade inflation and have begun to tighten standards. That trend seems to be coming to UCLA, at least in some departments. From the Daily Bruin:

The math department's new grading policy is meant to make grading more equitable across different lectures of the same courses. But some students say it closely resembles a quota system – which the department bans.

The department will now determine grade cutoffs for each course – or percentage values corresponding to each letter grade – at the end of each quarter. These cutoffs will apply to every lecture for a given course – a change from previous quarters, in which professors decided grade cutoffs for their individual classes. This change aims to address grading inequities across lectures for the same course, said Marcus Roper, the undergraduate vice chair of the mathematics department...

The department will give professors an expected range of each letter grade to give out, Roper said. However, professors can choose to assign more or less of a grade within that range based on their evaluation of a class's engagement and overall performance, he added...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/02/24/math-department-standardizes-grade-cutoffs-across-lectures-to-address-inequities.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 270

From the Daily Princetonian: *In a series of... memos, the University informed faculty and non-union staff of raise cuts and benefit reductions for the coming fiscal year, with a decrease in personnel also on the horizon. The adjustments to employee pay and benefits came shortly after the annual State of the University letter from University President Christopher Eisgruber '83 reported that the University would be tightening its budget primarily due to declining long-term endowment return expectations and continued uncertainty over federal funding. Eisgruber discussed some of the raise cuts at his annual Council of the Princeton University Community town hall...*

Provost Jennifer Rexford '91 and Executive Vice President Katie Callow-Wright sent an email obtained by the 'Prince' to employees informing them that benefits would also be cut. "We want everyone to be aware that some reduction to the University's generous benefits structure is coming," Rexford and Callow-Wright wrote. "Overall headcount at the University will decline as we reallocate resources to protect our highest priority areas," they also warned. The email did not specify whether this referred to layoffs or not renewing positions after retirements...

Full story at https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2026/02/princeton-news-broadfocus-u-cut-employee-benefits-raise-reductions-mixed-reactions.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Princeton U

The less said, the better?

UC President Milliken gave a lengthy interview about various topics related to UC to the LA Times. It appeared yesterday, but apparently occurred before the most recent DOJ lawsuit was filed against UC:

https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-03-02/uc-president-james-milliken-interview.

Apparently, the Times would have liked less to be said:

"*Milliken was more* ***verbose*** *on the role of higher education and his big-picture visions for UC.*"

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Regardless of the word count, this is what Milliken had to say about the current conflict with the feds and how UC is dealing with it:

https://ia601506.us.archive.org/0/items/newsom-03-04-2026/UC%20Pres%20Milliken%20on%20UC%20response%20to%20conflict%20with%20fedl%20govt%20posted%203-2-2026.mp4.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Milliken, politics, UC

How Independent?

From time to time, something is done or said by student government that raises controversy or concern. The response at UC and its various campuses is that student government is independent of the university, i.e., the university is not responsible for what occurs.

The problem is that student government, like any government, needs revenue to operate and the university collects the fees that

provide its revenue. A recent article in the Daily Bruin on a proposal to raise such fees, notes that increases in fees must be approved by the chancellor and the president of UC:

UCLA students may be able to vote on one of the Undergraduate Students Association Council's costliest referendums this May. USAC approved three referendums to appear on undergraduate students' ballots in the May election – including the Bruin Success Referendum, Bruin Bash Referendum and Bruin Life and Undergraduate Experience Fee Referendum – at its Feb. 24 meeting. The Bruin Success Referendum could add an additional $55 to students' quarterly fees, while Bruin Bash would be an extra $3.13 and BLUE Fee Referendum would charge $27.

The UC Office of the President and Chancellor Julio Frenk must approve the referendums before they can officially appear on the ballot for the undergraduate student body to vote on. *Any campus-based student fee collected is required to have a 25% return-to-aid, meaning a quarter of the fee is returned to students who qualify for financial aid...*

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/02/27/fee-increasing-referendums-pass-usac-await-chancellor-approval-for-may-ballots.

In short, student government proposes; UC's administration disposes. Tuck that fact away for future reference, if and when some controversy arises.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: UC, UCLA

Monday, March 2, 2026

Cat has let go of tongue

As blog readers will know, it was only last Saturday when yours truly wondered why the Regents weren't scheduling one of their closed-door meetings to discuss the conflict with the feds, after DOJ filed its recent lawsuit against UC/UCLA.*

Well, two days after that posting, guess what appears on the Regents' website: announcement of a closed-door meeting tomorrow. The notice is dated Feb. 28, the very day we raised the issue, but it wasn't actually posted until today, or possibly late yesterday.

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February 28, 2026

TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA:

Because the membership of the Advisory Group on Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues ("Advisory Group") includes five members of the Regents' Governance Committee, there exists the potential for having present a quorum of a Regents' Committee when the advisory committee meets.

This notice of meeting is served in order to comply fully with pertinent open meeting laws. On Tuesday, March 3, 2026, there will be a Closed Session, Special Meeting of the Regents' Governance Committee concurrent with the Advisory Group to discuss Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues (Closed Session Statute Citation: Litigation [Education Code section 92032(b)(5)].)

The meeting will convene at 4:00 p.m. at 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland and adjourn at approximately 5:00 p.m.

(Advisory Group members: Regents Anguiano, Cohen, Hernandez, Matosantos, Milliken, Reilly, Robinson, Sarris, and Sures)

Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/march26/meeting-notice_federal-march-3-2026.pdf.

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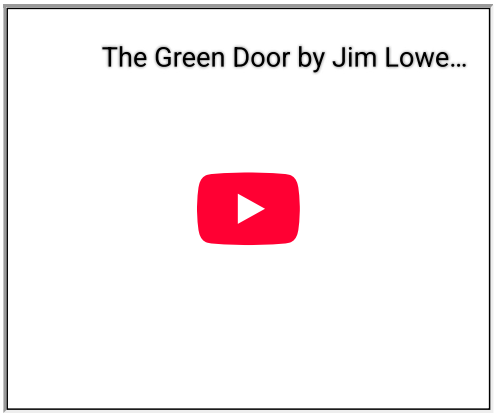
Unlike, past closed-door meetings, a full hour is allotted in contrast to the thirty minutes allotted to some of the past meetings. So now the question is, will the closed door be green?



Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eg7I7UEYMOI.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/02/cat-got-your-tongue.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 6:49 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, UC Regents

Berkeley Among Universities Dropping PhD Project

Press Release

U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights Secures 31 Agreements with Colleges and Universities to End Partnerships with The Ph.D. Project

...The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced that it has secured thirty-one resolution agreements (RAs) with institutions of higher education to cease their partnerships with The Ph.D. Project, an organization which provides doctoral students with insights into obtaining a Ph.D., but unlawfully limits eligibility based on the race of participants. After initiating investigations several months ago into forty-five institutions of higher education for collaborating with the Ph.D. Project, OCR later determined that these institutions violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) by partnering with an organization that discriminates on the basis of race.

These thirty-one universities had either already terminated their relationships with The Ph.D. Project or have agreed in their RAs to end their memberships or partnerships. Each institution also agreed to conduct a review of their partnerships with external organizations to identify any that violate Title VI by restricting participation based on race.

"This is the Trump effect in action: institutions of higher education are agreeing to cut ties with discriminatory organizations, recommitting themselves to abiding by federal law, and restoring equality of opportunity on campuses across the nation," said U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon. "We are hopeful that other institutions with similarly discriminatory practices will follow suit, paving the way for a future where we reject judging individuals by the color of their skin and once again embrace the principles of merit, excellence, and opportunity."

The institutions which have signed RAs with OCR to cease their partnership with The Ph.D. Project are:

- Arizona State University – Main Campus
- Boise State University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Clemson University
- Duke University
- Emory University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

- Montana State University – Bozeman
- New York University (NYU)
- Rice University
- The Ohio State University – Main Campus
- Towson University
- Tulane University
- University of Arkansas – Fayetteville
- **University of California – Berkeley**
- University of Chicago
- University of Cincinnati – Main Campus
- University of Colorado – Colorado Springs
- University of Delaware
- University of Kentucky
- University of Michigan – Ann Arbor
- University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
- University of Nebraska – Omaha
- University of North Dakota – Main Campus
- University of North Texas – Denton
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Utah
- University of Wisconsin – Madison
- University of Wyoming
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Yale University

OCR is in ongoing negotiations with the remaining 14 schools.

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Background

Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in education programs and activities receiving federal funding.

Source: https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-educations-office-civil-rights-secures-31-agreements-colleges-and-universities-end-partnerships-phd-project.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UC-Berkeley

Half

From Inside Higher Ed: *The National Science Foundation's chief management officer says the agency, a major federal research funder, is seeking approval to hire more employees after the Trump administration's cuts last year left it without enough staffing. Micah Cheatham also told the National Science Board, which approves NSF policies, at Wednesday's board meeting that the agency is trying to "consolidate" solicitations for grant awards to half, or less, of the usual amount of these funding opportunities—raising concerns that fewer researchers will receive funding. Cheatham said this move would reduce workload, but also help applicants. "The fewer solicitations you have, the less time grant applicants have to figure out which of our pigeonholes they fit into," he said.*

Dorota Grejner-Brzezinska, a board member and the University of Wisconsin at Madison's vice chancellor for research, expressed concern that fewer solicitations will lessen junior faculty's ability to receive awards that jump-start their careers. She also said the agency's practice of frontloading the funding of previously multiyear grants further reduces how many researchers receive grants in a year...

*The White House confirmed that Trump is nominating Jim O'Neill as the NSF's next director. O'Neill was dismissed earlier this month from leading the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a position he had only held since late August.**

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/science-research-policy/2026/02/26/nsf-plans-boost-staffing-halve-grant.

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From CNN: ...*O'Neill, who [was] second-in-command behind Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. at HHS and the interim leader of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has been a controversial figure at the agency, where he helped to amplify anti-vaccine messaging and concerns about Medicaid fraud, and cheered the United States' departure from the World Health Organization*...

Full story at https://www.cnn.com/2026/02/13/health/rfk-aides-jim-oneill-hhs-cdc.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous, politics

Straws in the Wind - Part 269

From the Daily Princetonian: *Artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude have started influencing the way that universities and institutions of higher education operate. AI has not only changed the ways in which professors navigate their classrooms, but it has also upended long-established systems for exams. This change is well-illustrated by the economics department, which has begun administering only in-person final exams...*

The 'Prince' analyzed the final assessment schedules for the last three semesters to better understand how the University is trying to tackle concerns relating to cheating and AI. The number of take-home exams has been continuously declining over the last three semesters. In Spring 2025, they were more popular than in-person finals, but just a year later, they have become scarce as generative AI has become more commonplace, with only 49 take-home exams being administered this semester...

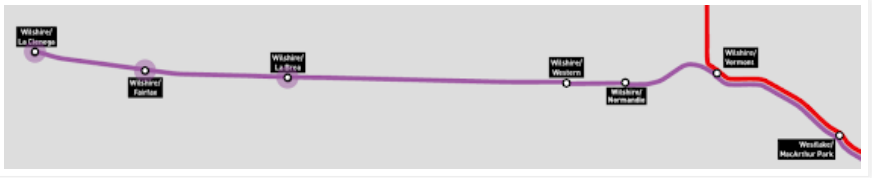
The number of take-home exams have more than halved in number since this time last year, from 168 to 49. There were more take-home exams in the Spring 2025 semester than there were in-person finals. Now, there are less than 50 take-home exams scheduled. From Spring to Fall 2025, the number of in-person exams has increased by over 50 percent. The number of papers, projects, and presentations have increased by 61 exams in the span of only a year...

Full story at https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2026/02/princeton-data-end-of-take-home.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Princeton U

Getting closer



The D line subway will extend along Wilshire to La Cienaga starting May 8. The extension after that gets to Century City in Spring 2027. The further extension to UCLA and the VA is due in Fall 2027, in time for the Olympics.

Info at https://www.metro.net/d-line-extension/.

So, we're getting closer..

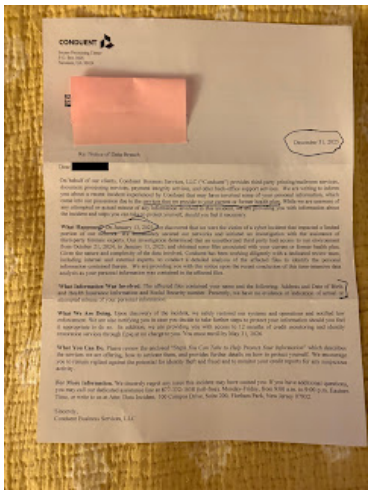
but no cigar yet.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: transportation, UCLA

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Bad News, Good News


CONDUENT

A company named Conduent has been sending out letters warning of a data breach that apparently affected some participants in UC health plans. Conduent appears to do clerical work for health plans. The letter does not say which health plan is involved. It does say information such as Social Security number was stolen.

The letter is dated Dec. 31, 2025 and refers to a data breach a year before that. But the letter arrived last week. The first page of a 3-page letter is shown here. The other pages contain boilerplate language about credit rating agencies, freezing your credit, etc.

The good news, such as it is, is that UC folks already had their data stolen some time back and UC provides free data monitoring. So if you got the letter, it is unlikely that anything new was stolen.

Californians can freeze their credit at the three credit agencies for free. It's a good idea to do it. But it does involve some hassle if you want to do something involving finances such as apply for a new credit card. You have to unfreeze access for a temporary period in such cases.

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A letter dated Jan. 26, 2026 was circulated within UCOP indicating which plans were affected. As far as yours truly knows, no information was sent by UC directly to plan participants. Below is the list of plans as of a month ago:

- Anthem – Elevance Health: Over 83,000 UC PPO members were affected. Notifications were or will be sent in three separate waves based on the business functions performed by Conduent. Some members may receive multiple notifications.
- Accolade: No member impact, as this vendor is not used.
- Navitus: No member impact, as this vendor is not used.
- Kaiser Permanente: 18 members affected.

- Optum Behavioral Health: Confirmation pending.
- Health Net: 633 UC Blue & Gold HMO members and 50 Postdoctoral members affected.
- UnitedHealthcare: No member impact, as this vendor is not used.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud, health care, UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 268

From the Chronicle of Higher Education: *...New York University will begin a new initiative aimed at getting students to spend less time on their phones. It's called NYU IRL (short for "in real life"), and it spans the university's Manhattan, Abu Dhabi, and Shanghai campuses, where students will be enticed to enter "device-free zones" ...NYU IRL, which Linda G. Mills, NYU's president, announced earlier this year, includes new resources for faculty to try "device optimization" in their classrooms, such as making it a featured topic in the university's faculty learning exchange week, which is happening now. NYU will also host in-person events like a "supper club" in its dining halls.*

To mark the beginning of the effort, NYU professor and author Jonathan Haidt is hosting a "fireside chat" early next month to talk through his bestselling book, The Anxious Generation. The 2024 book argues that the rise in smartphone usage in childhood over the last decade has contributed directly to the rise in mental illness in younger generations. Mills cites Haidt's findings as a major inspiration for the new program...

Full story at https://www.chronicle.com/article/nyu-wants-students-to-put-down-their-phones-will-they.

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From the NY Times: *The Defense Department has decided to cut academic ties with nearly two dozen top universities and think tanks as part of Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's campaign against what he calls anti-American values and "wokeness." ...In a video published to social media* ...Mr. Hegseth denounced the institutions in blistering language, calling them politically liberal institutions with "wicked ideologies" that were indoctrinating U.S. service members. He said that, beginning in the new school year in September, the Defense Department would ban service members from attending those universities.*

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*https://x.com/secwar/status/2027474502876070386.

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In addition to Harvard, which was banned earlier this month, the Defense Department said the banned institutions would include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton, Yale, Brown, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Columbia, George Washington, Tufts, St. Louis and Carnegie Mellon, as well as the College of William & Mary, Middlebury College and Queen's University in Ontario.

When Mr. Hegseth cut ties with Harvard, it was seen as part of a wider pressure campaign by the Trump administration to force the university to cut a deal with the government. But some of the universities that were banned on Friday have already agreed to a laundry list of demands from the Trump administration as part of an effort to remake the culture of higher education. The Defense Department said it would also cut ties with seven high-profile think tanks in

Washington known for their defense and national security analysis: the Center for Strategic and International Studies, New America, the Brookings Institution, the Atlantic Council, the Center for a New American Security, the Council on Foreign Relations and the Henry L. Stimson Center...

Mr. Hegseth, who served as an infantry officer with the National Guard, graduated from Harvard's Kennedy School in 2013 with a master's degree in public policy... The Defense Department said it was considering replacing the programs with those at institutions including state universities and conservative Christian schools like Liberty University and Hillsdale College...

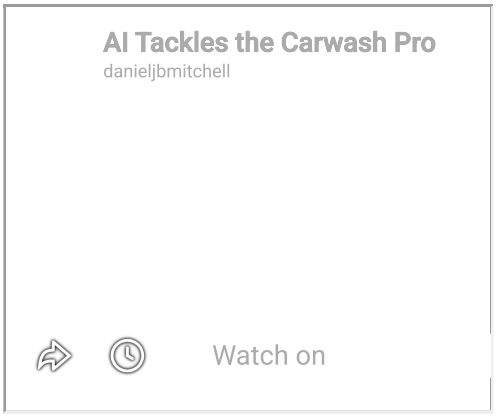
Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/28/us/politics/pentagon-universities-think-tanks.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Brown University, Carnegie Mellon, Columbia, George Washington U, Georgetown, Harvard, Hillsdale, Johns Hopkins, Liberty U, Middlebury, miscellaneous, MIT, NYU, politics, Princeton U, Queen's U, St. Louis U, Tufts, William & Mary, Yale

Maybe we worry too much about AI ???

Yes, AI has become a problem for higher ed. It lacks ACS (artificial common sense):



Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNaN0iAuan8.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

I Never Promised You a Rose Bowl? - Part 15

Meanwhile, back at the Bowl... From the California Post:

Having committed to playing at the Rose Bowl next season, UCLA's long-term football fate remains in the hands of a court. Attorneys representing the school are appealing an LA Superior Court judge's decision to deny arbitration in the Rose Bowl's breach-of-contract case against UCLA. Those same attorneys have also filed a motion to pause the case, pending the appeal decision. But ***discovery has started*** *in the case after a judge denied UCLA's previous attempt to cease depositions, and it's possible* ***the appeal may not significantly delay the start of jury selection in the trial****...*

UCLA's plans are increasingly uncertain after the school committed to remaining at its longtime home stadium for next season. The move came not long after the dismissal of UCLA vice chancellor and chief financial officer Stephen Agostini, one of the primary proponents of a move to SoFi Stadium...

Full story at https://nypost.com/2026/02/28/sports/ucla-appeals-arbitration-decision-in-rose-bowl-suit/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:01 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

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